

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

reaching up to apex of head; segments 2nd and 4th six times, 3rd five times, 5th seven times as long as wide.

Thorax: Greenish, densely punctate except a transverse band on pronotum which is impunctate; pronotum well developed more than two times as wide as long (4.2:1.7 mm), antero-lateral angles prominent; scutellum well developed, converging posteriorly, slightly wider than long, a pair of dark patches present before the apex one on each side; metathoracic scent gland short and ear-like.

Fore wings: Basal two thirds greenish, weakly sclerotised and sparsely punctate; apical one-third transparent, membranous and impunctate; three times as long as wide (6.2: 2.2 mm), outer margin truncated.

Hind wings: Membranous, triangular in shape, slightly longer than wide (4.0:3.7 mm); submarginal vein without distinct triangular expansion at its apex.

Legs: Greenish except apices of tibiae which are brown; tarsi 3-jointed, second tarsal segment smaller than first and third tarsal seg-

ments separately; claws much sclerotised.

Abdomen: Greenish, punctate, distinctly longer than wide, lateral margins without black spots; abdominal spine long, extending up to middle coxae (fig. 9).

Body length: 6.9 mm.

Nezara indica sp. nov. is more closely related to *N. similis* Freeman, but differs from it in having long abdominal spine which extends up to middle coxae, margin of abdomen without black spots.

Holotype: ♀, INDIA: Uttar Pradesh, Aligarh, University Botanical Garden on *Trifolium alexandrinum* Linn., 20.viii.1976. (M. Nayyar Azim). *Paratypes*: 5 ♀ (Same data as for holotype).

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FREEMAN, P. (1940): A contribution to the study of the genus *Nezara* Amyot & Serville (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae). *Trans. R. Ent. Soc. Lond.*, 90: 351-374.

27. THE BLACK ANT, *CAMPONOTUS* SP., FEEDING ON UREA

I refer to Dr. Mahdihassan's note under this heading (1977, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 74(1) : 197-199).

Some forty years ago, my doctor in Calcutta told me that he could confidently forecast the

laboratory results of urine sent for sugar determination by observing the behaviour of *Camponotus* ants, of which there were numerous nests in his garden.

He said that the ants never made a mistake

and that samples which were subsequently proved to be sugar-negative were invariably ignored, whilst those that were sugar-positive had numbers of ants clustered above the surface of the liquid in the sample beakers.

I wonder, therefore, if Dr. Mahdihassan is

correct in stating that urea in the urine is the attraction in these public latrines, and that the real explanation is that some of the users are diabetics, whose urine contains sugar, which is the actual attraction.

MOMBASA,
KENYA,
EAST AFRICA,
November 21, 1977.

D. G. SEVASTOPULO

28. DANAID BUTTERFLIES ATTRACTED TO *HELIOTROPIMUM*
INDICUM (BORAGINACEAE), AN ALKALOID
CONTAINING PLANT

I am pleased to be able to add a little further information to Professor S. R. Amladi's very interesting note under this heading (1975, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 72(2): 585-587).

The first references to this behaviour are to be found in the *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of London* [1926, 1:35, 36, 37. 1931, 6:77, 78, 79. 1936, 11(a):94] recording the attraction of *Tournefortia* spp. (Boraginaceae) to the males of various species of *Euploea* spp. on a number of Pacific Ocean

Islands.

Very little more was written in this connection for a number of years until the early 1970s, when my friend Professor Dietrich Schneider of the Max-Planck-Institut für Verhaltensphysiologie of Seewiesen, West Germany and his team began to take an interest and eventually showed that feeding on the withered *Neliotropium* was an essential precursor to the formation of the male hormone.

MOMBASA,
KENYA,
EAST AFRICA,
October 10, 1977.

D. G. SEVASTOPULO

29. AN UNUSUAL FOOD-PLANT FOR *ARGINA SYRINGA* CR.

Messrs B. N. Viswanath & B. L. Visweswara Gowda's record of the above species feeding on a monocotyledon—banana (*Musa* sp.)—(1975), *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 72(3): 871-2) is so far out of pattern that I feel bound to comment on it. Although Gaede, in Seitz

African Bombyces, writes that many Callimorphinae are polyphagous, in contrast to the monophagous Nyctemerinae, all available food-plant records for *Argina* Hbn. and the allied genus *Amphicallia* Auriv. are *Crotalaria* spp. (Papilionaceae), furthermore, *Argina*